SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANT	S				
JOHN PEPPERS	PEPPERS			NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC				
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(b) Causti Charles	Product Second policy of the							
(b) County of Residence of	First Listed Plaintiff		County of Residence	e of First Lis	ted Defendant			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	dress)						
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Craig Thor Kimmel, Esc			LAN	ID INVOLVED				
Kimmel & Silverman, P.	C.		Attorneys (If Known)					
30 E. Butler Pike			, ,					
Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888		i						
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

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SELECT ONE OF	THE FOLLOWING CASE	MANAGEMENT TRACKS:	
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4 4 11 Date 215-540-888	Craig Ther Ki Attorney-at-lan	mmel John Peppers ** Attorney for ** Kimmel@crediflaw	 (UM)
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address	

(Civ. 660) 10/02

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	e used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of				
Address of Plaintiff: 7760 Gleasan Road, Apt &B	Knoxuile, TN 37919				
Address of Defendant: 507 Prodential Road, Hard	nam, PA 19044-2308				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:					
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Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation ar					
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes No Y				
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ARBITRATION CERT					
i. Craig That Kimmel , counsel of record do hereby certif					
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\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
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I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or except as noted above.	within one year previously terminated action in this court				
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CIV. 609 (6/08)

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 2 JOHN PEPPERS, 3 4 Plaintiff 5 ٧. Case No.: 6 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 7 **JURY TRIAL** 8 Defendant (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 10 **COMPLAINT** Ιl JOHN PEPPERS ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, 12 P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 13 14 ("Defendant"): 15 INTRODUCTION 16 1. Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection 17 Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seg. (FDCPA). 18 19 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 20 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 21 which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate 22 23 United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 24 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising 25 under the laws of the United States. - 1 -

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- Defendant conducts business and has an office in the Commonwealth 3. of Pennsylvania, and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Knoxville, Tennessee 37919.
- Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 7. 1692a(3).
- 8. Also, Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a) and Wenrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 9. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044-2308.
- Defendant is a debt collector as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 10. 1692a(6), and sought to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 11. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 12. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 13. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. §

 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 14. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

16. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a

 consumer debt and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.

- 17. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 18. Defendant constantly and continuously placed collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt owed.
- Defendant most recently contacted Plaintiff on his home telephone on
 December 17, 2010.
- 20. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff from multiple telephone numbers including: 800-709-8625, which the undersigned has confirmed belongs to Defendant.
- 21. Defendant contacted Plaintiff continuously and repeatedly causing him to receive, at times, at least ten (10) collection calls a week.
- 22. Plaintiff informed Defendant that he is disabled, that his only source of income was Social Security benefits, and to stop calling him since he could not make any payments on the alleged debt.
- 23. Defendant ignored Plaintiff's instructions to cease contacting him, and continued to continuously and repeatedly call his home telephone.
- 24. In addition, in its attempts to collect the debt, Defendant disclosed information about the debt alleged to be owed by Plaintiff to his roommate and landlady.

- 25. Upon information and belief, when contacting Plaintiff, Defendant claimed to be an attorney and threatened legal action if immediate payment was not paid.
- 26. Also, Defendant threatened to garnish Plaintiff's wages, despite knowing that his only source of income was social security benefits.
- 27. To date, Defendant has not pursued legal action against Plaintiff or garnished his wages, despite its threats to do so.
- 28. Defendant's repeated telephone calls and threats caused Plaintiff's blood pressure to elevate.
- 29. Defendant's sole purpose in continuously and repeatedly contacting Plaintiff was to harass him.
- 30. Defendant conducted its debt collection activities in ways that were factually misrepresented and in violation of the FDCPA.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

31. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." <u>Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.</u>, 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding

unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).

- 32. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 33. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for

bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. <u>Clomon</u>, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 34. Defendant violated the FDCPA based on the following:
 - a. Defendant violated §1692 generally;
 - b. Defendant violated §1692c(b) of the FDCPA by communicating with third parties in connection with Plaintiff's alleged debt.
 - c. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;
 - d. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA by causing a telephone to ring and engaging Plaintiff in telephone conversations repeatedly and continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse or harass;
 - e. Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive and misleading representations in connection with the collection of a debt;
 - f. Defendant violated §1692e(3) of the FDCPA by falsely representing that the communication is from an attorney;

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- g. Defendant violated §1692e(4) of the FDCPA by threatening Plaintiff with wage garnishment even though such action is not intended to be taken;
- h. Defendant violated §1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening Plaintiff with legal action even though such action is not intended to be taken;
- Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA by making false representations or using deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt or obtain information concerning Plaintiff;
- j. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt; and
- k. Defendant acted in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failed to comply with the FDCPA.
- 35. As a direct and proximate result of one or more or all of the statutory violations above, Plaintiff has suffered emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JOHN PEPPERS, respectfully requests judgment be entered against Defendant, NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., for the following:

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- a. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,
- b. Statutory damages pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k,
- c. Actual damages,
- d. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k
- e. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, JOHN PEPPERS, demands a jury trial in this case.

DATED: 4|4|11

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

By:

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID # 57100 Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002

Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com